U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production & Marketing Administration
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 615
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the Federal-State Market News Service.

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending July 4, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 1 -- Small oranges are the only fruit that can be classed as a good buy this week.

But peaches are becoming more plentiful, as more and more varieties appear, and are a fairly good buy, along with boysenberries, and watermelons.

Apricots are a fair buy, with supplies moderate and prices a little higher. Other fair buys include cantaloups of better quality, figs a shade higher priced and plums.

The first Bartlett pears of the season have arrived from the Sacramento Valley, as well as the first Marlin Seedless grapes from the San Joaquin Valley. There are also a few Cranshaw, Persian, and Honeydew melons in the market.

Grapefruit and nectarines are scarce and higher, while lemons remain high.

Lettuce is the top buy on vegetables, even though there is some variation in quality. Tomatoes, squash (higher), and onions (slightly higher) follow as the next best buys.

Snap beans are only a fair buy this week, since available supplies are considerably less. Spinach makes its entrance into the fair buy class, while carrots, potatoes, and peppers remain as fair buys.

Meat is in considerably less demand. Better grades are preferred. Prices are about unchanged, except for a heavy influx of Cull, Utility and light Commercial lamb priced down $4.00 to $8.00. The bulk of the beef supply is of Commercial to Low-Good grade, with only a small amount of Choice. All four grades (Choice, Good, Commercial and Utility) of veal are to be found. There is practically no change on fresh pork or smoked ham and bacon.

Butter prices are up another 3 to 4 cents this week. Grade A (92 Score) is quoted at 72 cents per pound and Grade B (90 Score) at 67 cents. Production is on a seasonal decline. And sales are tapering off some, too, because of higher prices.

Egg prices are higher than last week and considerably higher than a year ago. A look at the quotations shows us that Grade A Large and Medium eggs are 2 cents per dozen higher than last week and 12 to 13 cents higher than a year ago, with Large quoted at 57½¢ and Mediums at 54½¢. Grade A Smalls are up 1 cent above last week and 6 cents higher than last year at 39½¢. Grade B Large eggs are unchanged from a week ago at 49½¢ per dozen but are 12 cents above a year ago. Production is on the downgrade. But sales are also on a downward trend as the result of higher prices.

Poultry is in fairly liberal supply and fairly good demand. But there is a tendency for consumers to favor the smaller sized birds --probably because of prices. Broilers, fryers, and roasters are all about 1 cent per pound higher than last week on both live and dressed weights. Colored fowl are down 1 cent. When we take a look at average prices for June of last year and the average prices for June of this year, we find that broilers are selling for practically the same prices as last year, compared with prices around 5 cents higher this year on small fryers, about 11 cents higher on colored fryers and roasters, about 3 cents higher on Leghorn fowl, and roughly 10 cents higher on colored fowl.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending July 11, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 8--Peaches move up to share the spotlight with small oranges in the best buy class for fruit this week. In addition, some of the better varieties of peaches are beginning to reach the market, including some of the popular canners.

In the number two position are apricots and watermelons. Although the apricot season is definitely off the peak, supplies continue good primarily because of the strike which delayed some shipments. The supply of watermelons is increasing, the quality appears to be generally good, and prices are somewhat lower.

Gravenstein apples, boysenberries, cantaloups and nectarines can be classed as fair buys this week. The supply of Gravensteins is moderate with prices a little lower. Boysenberries are still in moderate supply with prices unchanged. The flow of cantaloups to market is increasing steadily with most offerings from the San Joaquin Valley. Supplies of nectarines appear to be fairly light, but the price is lower. The supply of grapes is heavier this week, and prices are lower, but quality is not yet up to peak season level. Figs, a fair buy last week, are higher in price, supplies are lower and the quality is down. Lemons are also higher in price.

Bartlett pears are still on the short side, and plums and prunes, though generally available are of variable quality and price.

On the vegetable side, both bell and chili peppers and green onions have jumped into the best buy class this week, while lettuce -- the top buy last week -- has dropped into the fair buy class.

Fair buys this week include snap beans, carrots, cucumbers, spinach and squash, besides lettuce. Potatoes can still be classed as a fair buy, but prices are increasing. Tomatoes, although fairly plentiful, have taken a big jump in price to nearly double last week's level.

The demand for fresh and smoked meat is beginning to return to normal after the holiday week-end with most fresh cuts somewhat slower, but a fully steady market for cold cuts, and quick frying cuts. Most grades of beef are generally available at prices around $1.00 lower, although Good and Commercial grades make up the bulk of offerings. Veal is relatively plentiful in the lower grades, Choice is scarce, and prices are essentially unchanged. Both demand and price for pork remain strong and steady, about unchanged from last week. An earlier instituted raise of $1.00 for Good to Choice lamb could not be sustained, and lower grades are selling at wide spreads in price from $4.00 to $8.00 lower. Mutton remains steady.

Butter prices continue on the upgrade, about 1 cent higher than last week at 73 cents per pound for Grade A (92 Score) and 68 cents for Grade B (90 Score). The seasonal decline in production also continues with about one percent less butter manufactured in the West this week compared to last week, although production is still about 66 percent above the corresponding week last year. Supplies appear to be sufficient for immediate needs.

Egg prices also continue to advance with Grade "A" Large and Mediums up 4 cents per dozen, Grade "A" Smalls up 2 cents, and Grade "B" Large up 1 cent. Quotations are: Grade "A" Large, 61½¢ per dozen; Grade "A" Medium, 58½¢; Grade "A" Small, 41½¢; and Grade "B" Large, 50½¢. The trade has been apprehensive to possible buyers' resistance to the general advance in prices, but there was no decline in sales during the last week, and supplies have barely been large enough to meet the demand, with top grades of Large and Medium sizes limited.

Poultry supplies are liberal but demand seems to be lagging after a brief holiday flurry. Colored fryers are about 2 cents lower, both live and dressed. Roasters are 2½¢ to 3¢ lower alive and 2¢ per pound lower dressed. Both live and dressed Leghorn fowl of all weights dropped 1¢ to 2¢ per pound.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending July 18, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 15--Peaches and small oranges continue to share the top as best fruit buys of the week, with watermelons and nectarines close behind. Peach offerings are still restricted to table varieties, but quality is improving. The supply of small oranges is beginning to taper off, but is still plentiful. Watermelons are reaching toward the peak of both supply and quality.

Gravenstein apples are in fairly heavy supply and are moving slowly, but can be classed as only a fair buy. Apricots are up in price as the season has passed its peak. Cantaloups are in good supply and the quality is excellent this year. Other melons are not so plentiful yet, prices are high and the quality is spotty. Some varieties of plums and prunes can be classed as fair buys, but prices and quality are variable. Grape supplies are increasing and prices are lower but still in the luxury class. On the up side from a price standpoint are grapefruit, lemons and figs. All varieties of berries are scarce and high priced.

Bell and chili peppers continue as best vegetable buy of the week, but share the distinction with squash and tomatoes. Squash is of good quality and near its seasonal best. Tomato supplies are increasing, and the price is down after a jump last week.

Fair buys this week include cucumbers (lower), dry onions (higher), carrots (unchanged) and okra (lower). Mushrooms are fairly plentiful and the price is down. Likewise, fresh corn supplies are more liberal at lower prices.

Snap beans, egg-plant, lettuce and cabbage are in lighter supply and prices are up. Cauliflower is very scarce at premium prices and celery is still not plentiful enough to be classed as even a fair buy.

With the July 4 weekend cutting a day from slaughter activities the first week of the month, and a heavier than expected demand for meat over the holiday, many slaughterers shifted to a longer work day to "catch up." Offerings were cleaned up daily throughout last week at prices somewhat higher than the previous week, and with emphasis on good to choice grades.

This situation indicates the possibility of further advances this week, as the demand still seems to exceed the supply. Choice steer and cow beef is almost non-existant but offerings of Good and lower grades are liberal. Choice veal is also short. Although all grades of lamb are available, the demand again seems to favor Good and Choice. Good mutton is going begging at prices about the same as last week. Pork is still in heavy demand, particularly fresh loins, ham and bacon, and the result has been another general increase in price with supplies moving rapidly.

Although the production of butter continues its seasonal decline, supplies appear sufficient for current needs, particularly at the present higher prices. Supplies are considerably larger than last year at this time, but the price of Grade A (92 Score) took another 1 cent per pound jump to 74¢ this week. Grade B (90 Score) remains the same at 68¢.

The upward trend is emphasized on the egg market. Both Grade "A" Large and Grade "B" Large eggs are 4 cents higher than last week. Grade "A" Mediums are up 5 cents, and Grade "A" Smalls are 2 cents per dozen higher. Quoted prices are: Grade "A" Large, 65½¢ per dozen; Mediums, 63½¢; Smalls 43½¢; and Grade "B" Large, 54½¢. As production continues to taper off, supplies are not ample for needs, especially of the top grades.

Poultry prices are little changed with the results of the summer culling program beginning to show. Live broilers are selling on the top side of last week's price range, but heavy colored fryers are 2 cents per pound lower on both live and dressed weights. Colored roasters are 1 cent less both live and dressed. Supplies are fairly liberal with demand a bit on the slack side.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending July 25, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 22 — Topping the list of best fruit buys are Gravenstein apples — low priced and plentiful. Other top notch buys are peaches, watermelons, and small oranges.

Taking second place are cantaloups (slightly lower) and nectarines (quite low).

Thompson Seedless grapes stand alone as a truely fair buy, while some plums and prunes may be classed as a fair buy, depending upon the quality.

In the scarce and high department are grapefruit, lemons, large oranges, and figs.

Supplies of Bartlett pears are gradually becoming heavier, as the first arrivals from Lake County were received on the market today.

Peppers, squash and tomatoes are the week's best vegetable buys at fairly low prices.

Carrots, cucumbers, lettuce, mushrooms, and onions make up the fair buys.

More at higher prices seems to be this week's keynote to the meat situation. Practically all beef is up $1.00; veal and calf carcasses are $1.00 to $2.00 higher; Commercial and Utility lamb shows a $2.00 upturn, mutton and fresh pork carcasses are up $1.00; and skinned smoked hams and slab bacon register a $1.00 increase. We find that beef and calf slaughter has been pushed in order to fill orders. Demand for domestic export is good, while domestic demand is lagging along on a moderate basis. Supplies of veal continue fairly ample and are mainly of Good quality. Lamb offerings are liberal and mostly of Good and Choice quality. Ewe mutton is in broader demand. Moderate offerings of fresh pork are also in broad demand, while smoked hams and bacon continue in light volume.

There is very little change from a week ago on butter. The seesaw of prices continues. Grade B (90 Score) is up 1 cent at 69 cents per pound, and Grade A (92 Score) is down 1 cent at 73 cents per pound. Supplies are ample for all needs at these prices.

Egg prices continue to swing upward. Grade "A" Large and Medium eggs, as well as Grade "B" Large eggs, are up 2 cents per dozen and Grade "A" Smalls are 1 cent higher than last week. Supplies are unable to keep pace with demand. Quotations run at 67½ cents per dozen on Grade "A" Large eggs, 65½¢ on Mediums, 44½¢ on Smalls, and 56½¢ on Grade "B" Large.

Recent higher feed prices are having their effect upon the poultry market. Offerings of both colored chickens and Leghorn fowl are beyond the demand for immediate use. As a result, colored fryers and roasters are selling 2 cents per pound lower alive. All other classes of poultry remain unchanged from last week. Broilers and small fryers are in fair demand.

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